HODA KOTB: Increasing calls for a ceasefire in Gaza.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Why Israel and the U.S. are pushing back.

(....)

GUTHRIE: Breaking News. Pressing on. Israel launching another intense wave of air strikes to pound Hamas in Gaza. NBC News cameras capturing the moments this little girl is pulled from the rubble. This morning, a push for the pause in the fighting. The worry it will be the terrorists who stand to gain.

JOHN KIRBY: Right now, we believe a cease-fire benefits Hamas.

(....)

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RICHARD ENGEL: U.S. officials are now talking about, for the first time, potential pauses, humanitarian pauses of the Israeli air strikes, but both Israel and the United State reject any calls for a full cease-fire for now, saying it only benefits Hamas. The power is flickering and fading at hospitals in Gaza as medical officials say generators are on their last drops of fuel. The health system run by Hamas is in a state of collapse. Just as casualties are flooding in from hundreds of Israeli air strikes a day. Israel says it's bombing Hamas fighters and leaders, hiding in tunnels below apartment buildings, schools, and hospitals. Last night, our crew caught the immediate aftermath of what witnesses say was an Israeli strike on a three-story building. First, you see a hand. She's alive. Other children were not. We counted five children pulled from the building. Three living, two appear to be dead. And this is Khan Yunis in southern Gaza where the Israeli military again this morning urged Palestinians to go for their safety. Our crew this morning visited another building in the city hit overnight. The U.N. Secretary General says what's needed now is clear: a cease-fire. Israel is objecting and the United States is backing it saying no ceasefire now with the Pentagon saying small tactical pauses in airstrikes can be useful for civilian protections.

KIRBY: It's not the same as saying cease-fire. Again, right now, we believe a cease benefits Hamas.

ENGEL: Without one, bodies continue to pile up and the risk of this war escalating and drawing in the United States grows. Israel this morning accusing Iran of helping with Hamas with money, training and logistics before the October 7 attack where Hamas militants crossed into Israel and took 200 hostages and killed 1,400 Israelis and took more than 200 hostages, including the elderly and babies. And one photograph this morning seemed ominous: the shadowy leader of Hezbollah in Lebanon meeting with top officials from Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas. Behind them? Photographs of Iran's supreme leader. Israel said it stopped another attempt by Hamas to enter Israel and carry out an attack by sea.

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8:00:24 a.m. [TEASE]
8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Under Pressure]

GUTHRIE: Under pressure. This morning, more airstrikes in Gaza amid calls for a ceasefire. Where does it go from here? We're live with the latest.

(....)

8:03:21 a.m.
2 minutes and 3 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Battle Lines Drawn Over Calls for Ceasefire]
ENGEL: For the first time, U.S. officials are openly talking about the possibility of a humanitarian pause in the air campaign against Gaza, but both U.S. and Israel reject the idea of a cease-fire, saying it only benefits Hamas. The power is flickering and fading at hospitals in Gaza as medical officials say generators are on their last drops of fuel. The health system run by Hamas is in a state of collapse. Just as casualties are flooding in from hundreds of Israeli air strikes a day. Israel says it's bombing Hamas fighters and leaders, hiding in tunnels below apartment buildings, schools, and hospitals. Last night, our crew caught the immediate aftermath of what witnesses say was an Israeli strike on a three-story building. First, you see a hand. She's alive. Other children were not. We counted five children pulled from the building. Three living, two appear to be dead. And this is Khan Yunis in southern Gaza where the Israeli military again this morning urged Palestinians to go for their safety. Our crew this morning visited another building in the city hit overnight. The U.N. Secretary General says what's needed now is clear: a cease-fire. Israel is objecting and the United States is backing it saying no ceasefire now with the Pentagon saying small tactical pauses in airstrikes can be useful for civilian protections.

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ENGEL: The Israeli military says it stopped another attempt by Hamas militants to enter Israel last night to carry out an attack by sea, Savannah.

GUTHRIE: Alright, Richard Engel, thank you.